

Message Text

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PASS AGRICULTURE FROM AGRICULTURAL ATTACHE

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS:
SUBJECT: AGATT UZBEKISTAN TRIP REPORT (7/11 - 15)

1. TASHKENT

A. MEETING WITH AGR. MINISTER URKINBAEV
IN 1 1/2 HOUR SESSION, MIN. INDICATED FOLLOWING: 1) CROP
OUTLOOK BETTER THAN EITHER 1975 OR 1974: 2) PRODUCTION GOAL
OF FINE FIBER COTTON (ASSUME THIS IS LONG STAPLE) IN 1976 IS
260,000 M.T.; 350,000 IN 1980 AND TOTAL OF 1.6 IN 10TH FYP;
3) PRODUCTION GOAL IS 5.3 MILLION M.T. FOR 1976 AND 5.4, 5.6,
5.8 AND 6.0, RESPECTIVELY IN SUCCEEDING FOUR YEARS; 4) WATER
SITUATION IN 1976 SAID TO BE GOOD: 5) NEITHER EARTHQUAKE NOR
HEAVY RAINS CAUSED SUBSTANTIAL CROP DAMAGE OR SERIOUSLY DAMAGED
RESERVOIRS OR CANAL SYSTEMS, BUT CRACKING AND BUCKLING REPORTED
IN SOME CANALS. NO INTERRUPTIONS IN IRRIGATION FLOWS OCCURRED.
6) INTEREST INDICATED IN US COTTON TEAM VISIT TO UZBEKISTAN.

B. VISIT TO KOLKHOZ IANINISM
COTTON AND OTHER CROPS ON THIS 3,000 HECTARE MODEL FARM LOOKED
GOOD. FURTHER ADVANCED COTTON WAS IN BLOOM AND BOLL
FORMATION STAGE STANDING 2 AND 1/2 TO 3 FEET, BUT OTHER
FIELDS NOT YET IN BLOOM AND SHORTER.

2. BUKHARA
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A. MEETING WITH OBLAST PARTY SECRETARY FOR AGR., AKRAMOV

HE INDICATED FOLLOWING: 1) EARTHQUAKE DID NO SERIOUS DAMAGE TO CANALS AND RESEVOIRS: 2) WATER SUPPLY IS AT 93 PERCENT OF OPTIMUM COMPARED TO ABOUT 63 PERCENT LAST YEAR (310/299 MILLION CUBIC METERS FLOW PER MINUTE); 3) COTTON CROP IS IN VERY GOOD SHAPE WITH THREE WATERINGS ALREADY THIS YEAR COMPARED TO ONE AT SAME TIME IN 1975; MAY NOT BE LARGER THAN PERVIOUS RECORD CROP IN 1974 BUT COULD BE; 4) TWO DAYS OF 40-44 DEGREES C. WITH WINDS ON 7/13 AND 14 HAS DOUBTLESS CUT MAXIMUM POTENTIAL YIELDS, BUT 1974 CROP EXPERIENCED SIMILAR CONDITIONS: 5) 40 TO 45,000 HECTARES OF COTTON REPLANTED THIS YEAR, AS IS NORMALLY CASE FOR VARIOUS REASONS - THIS YEAR FLOODING CAUSED BY RAIN WAS PROBLEM; 6) MOST OF RE-PLANTED VARIETY WAS TASHKENT NOT EGYPTIAN; 7) GLAD TO RECEIVE VISIT OF 1976 COTTON TEAM.

B. ENGELS KILKHOZ VISIT

LOCATED ABOUT 60 KM NORTH OF BUKHARA, THIS WAS ANOTHER MODEL COLLECTIVE. WATER SUPPLIES GOOD THIS YEAR; THESE COTTON FIELDS TO NON-EXPERT LOOKED GOOD. ENROUTE TO FARM, FIELDS WERE SPOTTY FROM SALINITY, POOR GERMINATION OR SEEDING, DROWNING OUT, AND/OR OTHER CAUSES. IT LOOKED TO BE MAINLY SALINITY. GROWTH STAGE ALSO FLOWER TO BOLL FORMATION. PLANT HEIGHT EXHIBITED CONSIDERABLE VARIABILITY FROM FIELD TO FIELD; POSSIBLY DUE TO LATER PLANTING BUT ALL SIZES APPEARED TO HAVE SOME FLOWERS AND SOME FORMING BOLLS.

3. OTHER TRAVEL: FROM PLANE AND CAR, COTTON CONDITIONS APPEARED LESS GOOD THAN FIELDS INSPECTED AT BOTH KOLKHOZES. I FLEW AT NOT MORE THAN 5,000 FT OVER GOOD PORTION OF FIELDS BETWEEN TASHKENT - BUKHARA - AND BUKHARA - SAMARKAND. WOULD GUESSTIMATE THAT AN OVERALL AVERAGE OF 15 PERCENT OF THE STAND HAD BEEN KILLED OR FAILED TO GERMINATE. NO FLOOD DAMAGE APPARENT. UNABLE, OF COURSE, TO JUDGE PRESENT STAND IN RELATION TO AVERAGE. RESEVOIRS AND CANALS CONSIDERED TO LOOK NORMAL FOR SEASON. FYI AM CONVINCED THAT BOTH AG OFFICIALS BELIEVED THAT THEY HAVE A GOOD CROP IN THE MAKING. HIGH TEMPERATURES RANGING FROM 95 TO 115 DEGREES F. PREVAILED 7/11 59 15 WITH HIGH WINDS.

4. REPORT CONTAINING ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OBTAINED BEING FORWARDED. PUBLICATIONS PROCURED BEING APOED. NONE ARE CURRENT.

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